

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

_____)	
DYNAMIC MACHINE WORKS, INC.,)	
Plaintiff)	
)	
VS.)	Docket No. 04-10525-WGY
)	
MACHINE & ELECTRICAL)	
CONSULTANTS, INC.,)	
Defendant)	
_____)	

**PROPOSED
PLAINTIFF S REPLY TO DEFENDANT S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF S
MOTION FOR ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES**

Plaintiff hereby replies to the Defendant's Memorandum in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Assessment of Damages by submitting for the Court's consideration the within Brief and the Supplemental Affidavit of Venanzioro Fonte, with Exhibits.

REQUEST FOR HEARING

Plaintiff does not object to the Court holding a hearing on the issue of damages. Therefore it does not appear to be in dispute that a hearing should be held to assess the Plaintiff's damages, should the Court intend to assess damages.

- 2 -

ARGUMENT

Plaintiff asserts that as a general proposition, remedies provided under the Uniform Commercial Code are to be liberally administered to the end that the aggrieved party may be put in as a good a position as if the other party had fully performed. M.G.L. c. 106, §1-106.

Furthermore, Defendant s objection that the claimed damages are not supported by invoices, records or collaborative testimony is unpersuasive. The Defendant was provided with invoices, checks and documentation. In a fax dated December 12, 2004, sent shortly after Mr. Fonte s deposition, copies of bills and invoices were provided to Defendant s counsel. A copy of the fax cover sheet with enclosures is attached to Mr. Fonte s Supplemental Affidavit filed herewith for the Court s consideration.

With respect to some of the Defendant s specific objections, Plaintiff responds with the following based on Mr. Fonte s Supplemental Affidavit.

I. The Cost Of The Steady Rest Is Compensable

The Steady Rest was purchased from Defendant at a cost of \$45,000.00, specifically as an accessory to the Johnford Lathe. It was sent to Taiwan to be fitted and mounted onto

- 3 -

the Johnford Lathe, where it was electronically and mechanically interfaced with the Johnford Lathe.

The Steady Rest is neither useable nor interchangeable with any equipment at the Plaintiff s facility. Unlike the Chucks that are capable of being utilized elsewhere in Plaintiff s facility, the Plaintiff cannot similarly mitigate its damages with respect to the Steady Rest. Plaintiff is therefore entitled to reimbursement of the \$45,000.00 it paid to the Defendant for the Steady Rest.

II. Storage Fees Are Compensable

The Defendant concedes that under the Uniform Commercial Code as codified by the Massachusetts General Laws, expenses reasonably incurred in the care and custody of goods rightfully rejected are recoverable. Nevertheless, Defendant objects to storage fees claiming they were not actually incurred . Such parsing of words does not conform to the Code s directive for liberal administration of remedies.

In an effort to mitigate damages, the Plaintiff moved the Johnford Lathe to a less intrusive spot at its facility, to store the Johnford Lathe pending resolution of this case. The alternative would have been to ship the Johnford Lathe

- 4 -

for storage offsite at a cost of \$48,900.00, and spend \$1,100.00 per month thereafter for storage. Plaintiff opted to save the moving costs and store the Johnford Lathe at its secure, climate-controlled facility for as long as possible. This deprives Plaintiff of the opportunity to utilize valuable space at its facility for equipment, machinery, inventory, etc. In light of the moving costs saved and the desirable features of storage at the Plaintiff s facility, the claimed storage costs of \$1,250.00 per month are reasonable.

III. Electrical And Building Modification Expenses Are Compensable

Defendant objects to the electrical and building modification expenses claiming that they are not established with certainty and that they arise from the Plaintiff s own failure to reasonably provide therefore in the design and construction of Plaintiff s expansion to its facility. In support thereof, Defendant asserts in the Supplemental Affidavit of Norman Crepeau that the Plaintiff was in the process of designing and constructing a significant expansion to its business facility when it agreed to purchase the Johnford Lathe from the Defendant on January 13, 2003.

- 5 -

First, Mr. Crepeau s factual assertions in his Affidavit regarding the expansion of Plaintiff s facility are erroneous. By November of 2002, months before the Plaintiff agreed to purchase the Johnford Lathe, the building expansion project was completed, awaiting the final of a series of inspections that had occurred over the preceding months.

Second, the price of the Johnford Lathe agreed upon in the January 13, 2003 Purchase Order included the terms FOB Delivered on the floor . Mr. Crepeau had been on site at the Plaintiff s facility and should have been aware that the building needed to be modified in order to install the Johnford Lathe on the floor, as contractually required. It was not until the eve of delivery of the Johnford Lathe when the issue was raised of how the Defendant could deliver the Johnford Lathe, on the floor, as agreed. The building modifications are therefore the responsibility of the Defendant.

Finally, Plaintiff will not benefit from the electrical and building modifications. The Plaintiff disassembled the large power source feeding the Johnford Lathe, as it was no longer necessary and could not be utilized on the

- 6 -

replacement machine. All of the machines at the Plaintiff's facility, including new machinery, utilize existing electrical sub-panels with circuit breakers and therefore the Plaintiff does not benefit from the electrical service installed for the Johnford Lathe.

With respect to the enlargement of the opening to accommodate installation of the Johnford Lathe, Plaintiff will likely restore the smaller sized opening. The larger opening results in increased energy costs arising from heat loss and additional air conditioning expenses when the loading dock doors are opened during the winter and summer months, given that the larger opening is not sealed.

IV. Plaintiff Is Entitled To Installation Labor Costs

As stated before, Defendant appears to have conceded that incidental damages resulting from Seller's breach include expenses incurred in inspection, receipt, transportation, care and custody of goods rightfully rejected. As the Plaintiff spent ten weeks attempting to commission the Johnford Lathe, the costs of such installation clearly are involved in the inspection and receipt of the rightfully rejected Lathe. Plaintiff has attempted in good faith to quantify, in a reasonable manner,

- 7 -

the incidental damages involved in inspection and receipt of the Johnford Lathe, and therefore is entitled to the \$21,029.00 claimed.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Gregg S. Haladyna
Gregg S. Haladyna, Esquire
(BBO No. 547254)
56 Central Square
Chelmsford, MA 01824
(978) 256-8115
e-mail: Halalaw@aol.com

December 30, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that Plaintiff s Motion for Leave to File Reply Brief, Plaintiff s Reply to Defendant s Opposition to Plaintiff s Motion for Assessment of Damages and Affidavit of Venanzioro Fonte were served by electronic filing to counsel of record for Defendant on December 30, 2005.

/s/ Gregg S. Haladyna